

## The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUSEY.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1908.

## Peary's Plight.

So far substantial evidence of public interest in the polar expedition which Peary is anxious to undertake this year is lacking. This is rather a surprising state of affairs, in view of the extraordinary fitness of Peary for the work he has mapped out, and also the handsome support given by Americans in times past to comparatively insignificant explorers.

The spectacle of the most distinguished Arctic explorer that ever lived, the holder of the record for approach to the pole, hanging round a dock waiting for the modest sum needed to complete the outfitting of his expedition is uncomplimentary enough. But the failure of the expedition, to start, which would involve the loss of a precious opportunity and of the money already spent to gather a crew, would be worse still.

If Peary were a Norwegian or an Englishman he would not now be "hopeful, but helpless." He would probably be on his way with the money in his pocket.

## Milo—Then and Now.

The occupation of the lovely Venus named for the island of Melos has been discovered. They have found in Monemvasia, in the prefecture of Laconia, a terra cotta statuette which they believe to have been modeled after the Venus while it yet stood unbroken. This miniature type of womanhood holds a mirror in that lost left hand, while her right supports the garment around her hips. So that—if we accept the small as revealing the great—this discovery couples purity and vanity to the loveliness which was already ours.

Well and good. Logical it all seems and pretty, and not without its meaning. But suppose it were Milo's granddaughter who were to be carved in marble with a mirror, what would we have? Consider:

In lieu of tresses gracefully and simply drawn from a fine brow, a Merry Widow.

Instead of a waist line not less than twenty-six inches, an "ideal" of eighteen.

In place of a foot for a No. 7 shoe, set firmly and humanly on the ground, a stump of a No. 2, pegged four inches above the pavement at the heel.

This is all much to be lamented. But it will not make Mere Man waver in his allegiance. On the contrary, if he should suddenly come upon a modern Milo he would make haste to join the crowd, not to stare, of course, but taking counsel with himself how long the Allen would require to learn the summer fashions of 1908, and then to put the artists to flight by adapting herself to them, Merry Widow and all.

## A Great Office.

Three considerations make it difficult to understand the disposition of certain politicians and newspapers to make little of the Vice Presidency at this time.

The office is, first, equipped with great power, confers upon the incumbent unquestioned dignity, and intrusts the citizen elected not only with membership in the upper house of our Legislature, but with the honor of presiding over its deliberations.

Second, in practically one case out of three, since Washington, the citizen elected Vice President has been advanced to the Presidency. America has had, since the Sage of Mount Vernon, twenty-five Presidents. Eight of the twenty-five served first as Vice Presidents—John Adams, Jefferson, Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson, Arthur, and Roosevelt.

In our own generation, finally, four of the second men on the Presidential tickets have proven great forces for the party's advantage at the polls—English, Logan, Hendricks, and Roosevelt. Without these men, the standard bearers—Hancock, Blaine, Cleveland, and McKinley—would have lacked effective and recognized elements of strength, unpleasant as it would have been in at least two of the four cases to admit it.

Four years of prospective service

in the United States Senate in the chair of its Presiding Officer might well tempt any man. The cold calculation that there is one chance in three this man may be promoted by law to the Presidency, or subsequently elected to it, ought to impress not only any citizen, but any political party. The sure knowledge that a wise choice will add measurably to the strength of the ticket, and a poor one add correspondingly to its burdens might be expected to impress any party convention, even if the other considerations urged did not.

In certain proof that the politicians will be so impressed, that the office of Vice President will not go begging, it will be noted shortly in two cities that men who now laugh about the office as "going beggin'" will enter seriously on an effort to fill it, and that men who now refuse to allow their names to be considered will be glad to accept most graciously if they get the chance. Neither the politicians nor the people are inclined to confer a vote in the Senate and open the way to the Presidency by chance.

## Another Victim.

Prof. Andrew McPhail's address before the Intercolonial Club showed that the United States is not the only country suffering from too much protection. When the National Association of Manufacturers was in session in New York a few weeks ago it heard from its committee on the tariff that an overcharge of not less than \$7,000,000,000 is made every year to consumers in this country for the reason that greedy private interests have a hand in the making of the so-called Dingley bill.

In Canada protection has also enabled private interests to feed at the public crib. There, says Dr. McPhail, the "interested class is conducting itself in precisely the same way as the interested class among yourselves. They make our laws."

But the United States, indeed, is comparatively well off. Prof. McPhail says that the cost of living is higher in Canada than in any other civilized country in the world. He quotes authorities to prove that in Toronto, for instance, the market prices of ordinary commodities advanced 67 per cent from 1897 to 1907. True, wages also increased, but the increase on this side of the scales existed only during a period when work was steady.

Today "employment is hard to secure and wages are low. Strikes are now in progress in three important trades, and the cost of living is not decreasing very appreciably."

For thirty years the cry of the politicians who speak for the special interests is that Canada must protect its "infant industries." But the "infants" refuse to be weaned.

It is the same old story which our own consumers on this side of the border, and some of the manufacturers, are reciting. It is the same old story which Congressman Payne would have us believe is all poppycock.

Have you a smile ready for Tag Day?

Just about the time the proceedings in Chicago threatened to degenerate into monotonous William E. Chandler comes to the rescue in his capacity of the political wisp.

Justice Brewer was asked to tie the knot for two middle-aged lovers, but on learning that the jurist had no such authority in law the lovers were persuaded to accept the services of a plain justice of the peace. Not the first time, we venture, that a justice of the Supreme Court has found himself without jurisdiction in a matter of marriage.

Judge Taft seems to think that proposed tariff plank lacks a little protection for the candidate.

Painting the letter boxes red is not intended to signify that the august Postmaster General and the circumspect city postmaster have been celebrating over the developments in Chicago.

## TAKE A TRIP!

Are you feeling discontented? Does it seem to you, my friend, that conditions grow more dismal as each year drags to its end?

Are you one of those who sadly scent disaster from afar? Do you spend your days where trouble and the heirs of trouble are?

If you think the world is only a gray waste of desolation and gloom, and your work some day and journey out across the fertile farms—Latter where the streams go winding down along the peaceful slopes and the wind in reeds and rushes gently sings of summer's hopes.

—Chicago Record Herald.

## May

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No. 21.

Secretary.

## CLEVER COMEDIES AT THEATERS AND A JAPANESE OPERA PLEASE PATRONS.

## CHARLOTTE WALKER IN A SHAW PLAY

The Rev. James Mavor Morell  
The Rev. Alexander Mills... Ralph Kellard  
The Rev. Burgess... Alfred Hudson, Jr.  
Erasmus Marchbanks... Edward Ellis  
Prosperine Garnett... Frank Keenan  
Candida... Charlotte Walker

It is a quiet, forceful and altogether pleasing presentation of "Candida" that is given at the Belasco Theater this week by Miss Charlotte Walker, supported by Edward Ellis and an excellent company. Every individual in the cast of six seems to enter into the spirit of the comedy and delineates the shades of society in truly Shawesque style. "Candida," which was the first of the several comedy dramas to bring George Bernard Shaw before the public as a playwright of more than ordinary ability, is a keen satire on the present-day conventionalism and offers a capable company much opportunity for the display of histrionic talent through its many laughable situations and clever lines.

The two individual hits of "Candida," as presented last evening, were Edward Ellis as Eugene Marchbanks and Miss Frances Keenan as "Prosperine" Garnett, a typical, it was the first appearance of Mr. Ellis in Washington this summer.

Miss Keenan makes her every line and situation count heavily to her credit. Her snappy utterances and little mannerisms appealed strongly to the audience.

Edward Ellis is seen in a character quite different from any other he has portrayed in Washington—that of a poet, impassioned and shrinking youth, who is strong in his weakness, drawn with all the trenchant sarcasm, ridicule, and exaggeration of the gifted Irish dramatist. Mr. Ellis accentuates the absurdity of the character a little too much to be an altogether artistic Shaw burlesque, for Shaw's chief charm lies in his habit of keeping his audience guessing whether he is in earnest or is making fun at his patrons' expense. Mr. Ellis' delineation leaves no room for such uncertainty.

Miss Walker, the star in the title role, gives an excellent interpretation. She played the excited woman with an indescribable charm. Little demand is made on her powers as an actress until the last act. In the third scene, when she shows the impetuous youth, her status and where she chooses to remain with the man who is weak in his yearning for the audience, in her poise and sureness in her act which has not hitherto been manifest in her work. Miss Walker's characterization of "Candida" is a masterpiece of acting. Her Eugene, possesses that indescribable Shaw's quality of uncertainty and doubt which stimulates the imagination and the interest of the audience.

Brigham Rovee is in the cast as the Rev. James Morell and handles the role effectively. Alfred Hudson, a part of the Rev. Alexander Mills, a curate.

The "tempo" of the last act should be quickened considerably.

## STANDING BEGINS HIS LAST WEEK

## The Cast in "Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots."

Walter Corbin... Guy Standing  
D. Hume... George Gaston  
D. Hume... George Gaston  
Thomas Bonner... Frederick Hand  
Dick Ainslie... Frank Craven  
Mrs. Leffingwell... Martin Sabine  
Tim, coachman... Louis La Bey  
John, the driver... Samuel Klawns  
Mrs. Bonner... Mrs. Stone  
Mrs. Leffingwell... Jeffrey Lewis  
Mrs. Rummel... Alice Butler  
Miss Ainslie... Jane Cook  
Miss Ainslie... Dorothy Hammond

"Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots," that clever comedy from the facile pen of Augustus Thomas, is the vehicle for the last week of Guy Standing's engagement at the Columbia Theater, and it was accorded an enthusiastic reception by the large audience that witnessed it last evening. The presenting company was at its best. At the close of the second act the curtain calls became so persistent that Mr. Standing made a brief speech of thanks.

The play is more of a farce than a comedy, and for several seasons was one of the favorites of Broadway audiences. The plot is light and frothy, dealing with a jealous wife, who suddenly learns that her husband has had an "affair" in the past with two of her house guests. One was with a young cousin of his, and was wholly an innocent affair, and the other with a young matron that was more serious.

The young cousin is engaged to be married, and the matron contrives to cast the odium of the serious affair upon her. The almost comic of the two young lovers to part forever. Then comes the affair of Mrs. Leffingwell and a slipper which almost causes a scandal. Matters are finally adjusted to the satisfaction of everybody, and all ends happily. While the farce is not the best thing that Mr. Thomas has written, still it abounds in clever lines and humorous situations, which are the principal ingredients of a farce. Mr. Standing gave an acceptable performance of Walter Corbin, the young lover, and Miss Dorothy Hammond had the role of Mabel Ainslie, the cousin. A newcomer to Washington, Miss Jane Cook, a beautiful and capable actress, made a favorable impression as Mrs. Leffingwell. Miss Vira Stowe gave an intelligent interpretation of Mrs. Bonner, the young matron. The play is well staged.

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## "THE GEISHA" PLEASURES AT THE NATIONAL

The Cast.  
O Mimosa San, Chief Geisha... May Bouton  
Juliette Diamant... Edna Reming  
Yumi (Wave of the Future)... Marge Ramon  
O Kiku San, Chrysanthemum... Connie de Tourne  
O Hama San, Blossom... Mabel Martin  
O Kinkoto San, Golden Hair... Irma Bell  
Komuraki San, Little Violet... Signe Arnesen  
Ledy Constance... Fannie Hall  
Miss Molly Seamore... Agnes Finlay  
Miss Stanley, Middlemarch... Frida Caliz  
Captain Katharine... George H. Jackson  
Takamine... George W. Leslie  
Wun Hui, Chinaman... George W. Leslie  
The Marquis Inari... H. W. Tre Jendick

One of the smoothest performances of the current light opera season at the National Theater will take place in the Japanese lobby. The former was hung, when the Aborn company revived "The Geisha," a delightful and tuneful opera which has not been heard here in some time. Principals and chorus were more sure of their parts than on any first night since the opening, and the performance was altogether enjoyable.

Few light opera scores can be found which are more tuneful than that of "The Geisha," and every one of the fascinating numbers was good for several recalls last night.

The atmosphere of picturesque Japan greeted one immediately upon entering the theater lobby. The Japanese lanterns, in Japanese lanterns and garlands of flowers. The pretty picture was repeated when the curtain rose on a typical Japanese tea garden scene. The entire chorus in gayly colored kimonos tripped about the stage in real Japanese fashion, and the whole effect was refreshing.

May Bouton sings the role of O Mimosa San, the prize singing girl of the tea house of Wun Hui, Chinaman. Miss Bouton is fast becoming a strong favorite here, and received a cordial welcome. She has real ginger, and except the real gem of the opera, "The Jewel of Asia," the pretty pathos of the "Geisha" is ordinarily sung.

Agnes Finlay captivated everybody by her sprightly performance of Molly Seamore. All the while she sang, she kept things moving at a lively pace. The whole time she was on the stage, she kept the audience guessing whether she was Marge Ramon, as Namt, "Wave of the Sea," Edna Reming played a French girl cleverly.

George W. Leslie reaped additional laurels for his comedy work as the Chinaman, and Frank Rushworth looked sufficiently stumping as the young English officer to captivate the whole body of tea girls, instead of just one.

## ARAB PATROL WINS APPLAUSE AT CHASE'S

For the closing week of the season of 1907-8 Chase's polite vaudeville presents a bill of exceptional merit, and one that stands on a par with those presented throughout the winter months. The feature of the program is one of much local interest, inasmuch as it presents one of Washington's most famous organizations, the Arab Patrol of the Mystic Shrine. Capt. Frank E. Gibson, under whose guidance the troupe is presented, has a body of men who are the completion of several difficult drills. The act is closed with a gigantic pyramid. The Arab Patrol will undoubtedly prove a grand drawing card for the farewell week at Chase's.

Another act deserving special mention is that of Laddie Cliff, a fifteen-year-old Colorado boy, a native of the specialties imported from Old England. He is a grand dancer, and has recalled several times, Watson's Farmyard Circus is an innovation in the animal line, and does, geese, chickens, a pig, and a duck, in a grand training, and do some amusing feats.

Neta Vesta, a former member of "The Wizard of Oz" company, sings and dances in a most charming manner. Her "Rose" song and the "Telephone Love Song" being her best numbers. She is a grand singer, and has used to the best advantage, Fred Ray and his two co-workers again present the amusing travesty, "The Noblest Roman of them All," and several local hits, in which the overworked references to Alexandria and Georgetown are included, afford ample scope for twenty minutes of fun.

Eldridge, the Sand Man, opens the bill followed by an acrobatic act by Espe, Dutton and Espe. The vaudeville presents "A Diabolical Pickpocket" and "Russian Cossacks."

The Gayety has as the closing bill of the season "The Behman Show," which is making its second appearance of the season. The attraction has lost none of its spice and entertaining features, but seems to grow in popular favor.

Mollie Williams, as the Anna Heid girl, repeated her former success as the head of the feminine contingent, and Peter Curley, the leading comedian, and James C. Morton in characterizations of Mortimer and Stone did splendid work, as did Victor Casmore as Oscar Hammett, and Marian Moore as Maude Adam's Peter Pan.

Margaret King, in pictured melodies, and Captain Fox's songs were a welcome addition to the program. The 5-cent theater, manipulated by Curley and Casmore, was the feature of the performance, and abounded in good humor.

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## INTEREST OF SOCIETY CENTERS IN WEDDING

## Leiter - Williams Ceremony Tomorrow to Be Followed by Breakfast.

Bridal Couple to Leave for Honeymoon in Bridegroom's Touring Car.

Society at the Capital is deeply interested today in the plans for the most important wedding in many months—that of Miss Emilie Juliette Williams to Joseph Leiter, which takes place tomorrow at noon.

The ceremony will be attended by the utmost simplicity, and will take place in the apartments of the bride's parents in the Connecticut, where they have resided since their return from the Philippines. The Rev. E. L. Buckley, of St. Matthews' Church, will be the officiating clergyman, and only a small family party, including the bride's parents, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. John B. Williams; her grandmother, Mrs. Hewitt, of St. Louis; her sisters, Miss Dorothy Williams and Miss Francis Williams, the latter to be the only bridesmaid; Mrs. L. Z. Leiter, mother of the bridegroom; and two or three intimate friends.

Roman Baldwin, son of the late C. C. Baldwin, and a classmate of Mr. Leiter's at Harvard, will act as best man, and Colonel Williams will escort his daughter to the improvised altar.

Following the ceremony there will be a wedding breakfast and reception at Raucher's for 150 relatives and intimate friends of the young couple. The guests will be seated at two large and several small tables. The bride couple will preside at one large table, and will have with them twenty of their most intimate friends, and the bride's party, who are seated at the other, will have with them the near relatives.

Later in the afternoon Mr. Leiter and his bride will leave for a wedding trip in Mr. Leiter's suburban car. Though their destination is a profound secret it is rumored that they are to spend a few days at the home of the bride's father, Mr. and Mrs. John B. McLean, on the Tenleytown road, and later will attend the Republican and Democratic conventions in Chicago and Denver. Afterward they will join Mr. Leiter at Underhill, at Manchester-by-the-Sea, for the remainder of the summer, and later in August or early in September will sail for Europe to visit Mr. Leiter's estate, the Countess of Suffolk and Mrs. Colin Campbell, and his brother-in-law, Lord Curzon of Kedleston.

Mrs. Leiter will arrive in Washington tomorrow afternoon and Mrs. Williams will arrive at dinner in their apartments, having with them Mr. Leiter and Mr. Baldwin. This evening they will also dine at home. Yesterday Miss Williams and Mr. Leiter attended the commencement exercises at the Georgetown University, of which Miss Williams is a graduate. Today Miss Williams attended the reunion and luncheon of the alumnae at the convent.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jay White, who spent last winter in Washington, will occupy next winter the house on N street, which they recently purchased from General Miles.

Mrs. White, who is now in Europe, is expected to return shortly. She will be followed by Mrs. Charles G. White, her home in Rhode Island avenue, for several days.

Mrs. Candee, accompanied by her son, will sail for Europe within a few weeks. They will spend the summer abroad.

## LUNA PARK VAUDEVILLE.

The vaudeville at Luna Park this week is headed by Mme. Edith Helena, prima donna.

Mme. Helena is possessed of a very nice voice, clever, and, but unfortunately not sufficiently powerful for the demands made upon her.

The Irish team work of Murphy and Dunn is good and the singing of Tom Walker made a hit with the audience.

Miles and Raymond, in their sketch, "The Baby in the Garden," and Ben and Smith, in comedy work, furnished two agreeable numbers.

An animal performance closed the bill.

## "BEHMAN SHOW" AT GAYETY.

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